

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION
U.S. Application No. 10/620,701

Claims 4-7 and 9 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by newly cited Shimizu (U.S. Patent No. 6,373,155). Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention would not have been anticipated by or rendered obvious in view of Shimizu.

Independent claims 4, 5 and 7 are directed to “[a] method for positioning a rotational position sensor for a rotating electric machine, [wherein] the rotational position sensor compris[es] a stator coil wound around a stator; a rotor having ... a signal rotor fixed to a rotation axis thereof; and a detection stator, disposed opposite to the signal rotor, for detecting the rotational position of the rotor”. The structure of the claimed rotating electric machine differs in claims 4, 5 and 7 in that claim 4 recites that the rotor has a magnetic pole, claim 5 recites that rotor has a magnetic pole with a field coil and claim 7 recites that the rotor has a magnetic pole composed of a permanent magnet.

Shimizu discloses a dynamotor which includes a motor rotor 28, a motor stator 30 and a rotational displacement detection mechanism (sensor) 58. The rotational displacement detection mechanism 58 includes a sensor rotor 60 and a sensor stator (coil) 62 in order to detect-rotational displacement of the motor rotor 28 relative to the motor stator 30. In an inner circumferential side of the sensor rotor 60, four key-ways (or slots) 70 are formed and are disposed circumferentially at even intervals from one another. The sensor rotor 60 is positioned on a rotor mounting part 32 mounted on a crankshaft 12 by means of a radially oriented first dowel 72. The sensor stator 62 of the rotational displacement detection mechanism 58 and a magnetic-proof plate 74 (which shields magnetic flux and/or radio wave noise which leak from the motor

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stator 30) are installed in a motor case 22 by means of a mounting bolt 76. The sensor stator 62 is positioned by means of a second axially oriented dowel 78.

Although the Examiner generally cites Fig. 1, column 3, lines 19, 21 and 48-62 for disclosing all of the features of independent claims 4, 5 and 7, Applicant respectfully submits that it is quite clear that Shimizu does not teach or suggest the claimed steps of:

constraining the rotor from rotating by energizing the stator coil;
detecting the rotor to be rotated by a predetermined angle or more; and
adjusting the position of the detection stator or the signal rotor so that the
detection stator may have a predetermined signal.

Instead, Shimizu simply discloses that the sensor rotor 60 and the sensor stator 62 are positioned by the first dowel 72 and the second dowel 78, respectively. Nowhere does the cited reference teach or suggest positioning the rotational position sensor by performing any of the claimed steps. Moreover, Shimizu does not even teach or suggest that the position of the rotational position sensor may be adjusted (in fact, Shimizu teaches that the relative positions of the dynamotor 26 and the rotational displacement detection mechanism 58 remain constant such that positioning of each of the components is unnecessary¹).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 4, 5 and 7, as well as dependent claims 6 and 9, should be allowable because Shimizu does not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify the teachings of Shimizu to produce the claimed invention.

¹ See Shimizu at column 5, lines 5-17.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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